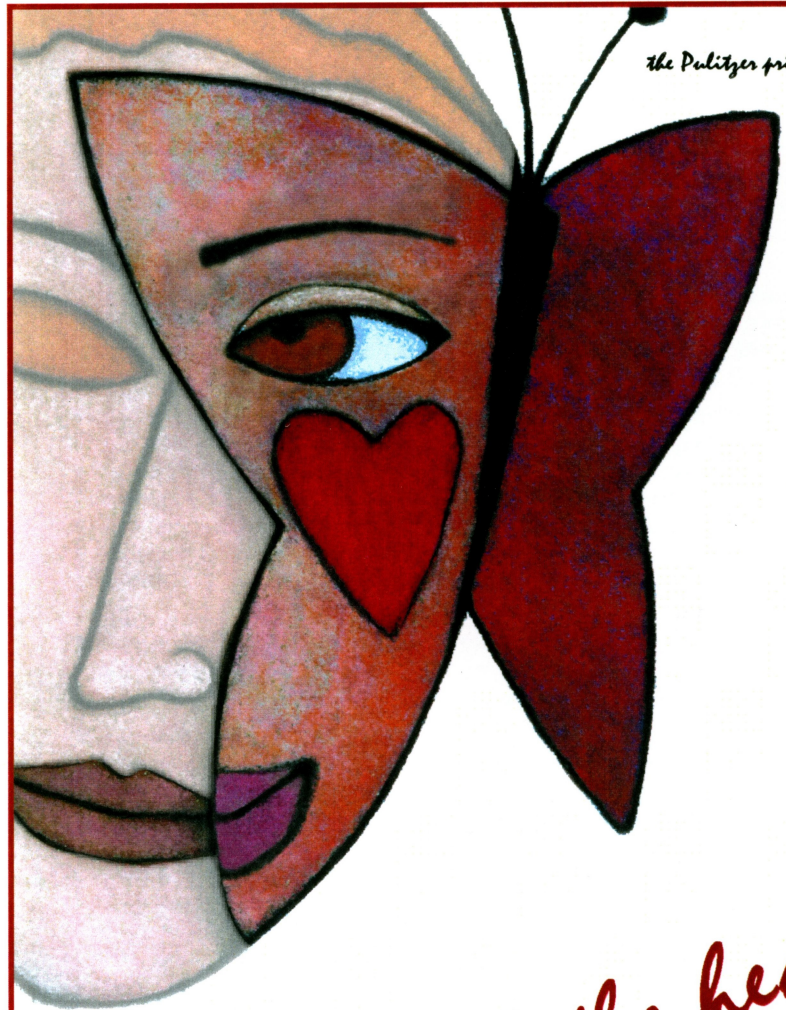


the Pulitzer prize winning play



crimes of the heart

by Beth Henley
directed by Randi Jennifer Collins Hard

November 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 • 8 p.m.

November 11 • 3 p.m.

November 7 - \$2.99 preview performance • 8 p.m.

November 15 - '2 for 1' night • 8 p.m.

Call 217/351-2528 for reservations and information
Groups of 15 or more call 217/373-3874

e-mail: theatre@parkland.cc.il.us • website: www.parkland.cc.il.us/theatre

General Admission—\$10 • Students (over 12) and Seniors—\$8 • Youths 12 and under—\$5



The heavenly musical hit!



Parkland College Department of Fine and Applied Arts proudly presents



by Stuart Ross
with musical arrangements
by James Raitt

Director
Dallas Street

Musical Director
Tim Schirmer

Scenic Designer
David G. Dillman

Lighting Designer
Shelley Crane

Costume Designer
Jeri Corso

September 26, 28, 29
October 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.
October 7 and 14 at 3 p.m.

Parkland College Theatre 2001

Presented by special arrangement with and all authorized materials supplied by Music Theatre International,
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019



CAST

Ryan McKinzie
JINX

Frank J. Paul
SPARKY

Joe Sawyer*
SMUDGE

Dallas Street
FRANKIE

Musicians

Ed Schaller (Uncle Chester) Bass

Tim Schirmer Piano

Forever Plaid is dedicated to the "good guys" —
To the guys who carried an extra handkerchief—
To the guys who saved their allowances to give their parents an extra
special night on the town for their anniversary—
To the guys who wheeled the projector carts for the Driver Education
films—
To the guys who didn't go beyond first base, and if, by some miracle,
they did, they didn't tell anyone.
We salute you!



PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager Kate Mallinger*

Assistant Stage Manager Taylor Long*

Technical Director David G. Dillman

Master Electrician Gibby Kirby*

Light Board Operator Paul Cameron*

Audio Operator Stacy Walker

Lighting Crew Paul Cameron*, Mike Ingram*,
Melani Fatemi*, Jake Freeman*,
Shannon Slewitzke

Spot Operators Christina Meuser*,
Shannon Slewitzke

Build and Paint Crew Ryan Beckett*, Paul Cameron*,
Josh Cox, Melani Fatemi*,
Mike Ingram*, James Knop,
Taylor Long*, Jennifer McLane,
Jake Freeman*, Christina
Meuser*, Shannon Slewitzke

Properties Head Morgan Dietkus*

Stage Props Run Crew Jana Dedeckova,
Kara Peterson*

Make-up Crew and Hair Sinova Fisher

Costume assistants Kara Peterson*, Megg Principe*

Ticket Office Manager Debbi Dillman

Assistant Ticket Office Manager ... Yuko Kubota

Ticket Office Staff Dallas Street

House Manager Jill Rannebarger

Assistant House Manager Mendi Gudgel

* Theatre Scholarship students





When most of us think of the 1950s, we think of rock 'n' roll, greasers, hot rods, Elvis, Annette, Fabian, D.A. haircuts, and teenage rebellion. But there was a flip side to this era — the side of harmony, innocence, and the sincerity of dreams. It is the side that's been lost in the shuffle of progress. It was a time when most parents and kids listened and danced to the same music; when families partook of the ritual of gathering in front of the TV to watch their favorite variety shows, like the *Ed Sullivan Show* or the *Perry Como Show*. It was a time when every family worked hard to fulfill the American dream.

It was a period when four-part guy groups harmonized their way across the airwaves, jukeboxes, and hi-fis of the country. Throughout the land, they would stand at a quartet of microphones, crooning a multitude of chaperoned prom-goers into dreamy romance.

They wore dinner jackets and bow ties (or perhaps cardigans and white bucks). Each move was drilled to precision. Each vocal arrangement soared to stratospheric heights of harmony. This sound crested right before rock 'n' roll stole the heartbeat of music across the globe.

During this time, guys across the country banded together to sing in the basement for fun. If things worked out they might be hired to sing at weddings, conventions, proms, and country club socials. Inspired by the success of the recording stars, they made plans to zoom into careers of fame and fortune. But the musical taste of the U.S.A. was changing, and the country would not stop to listen to their dream.



This is the story of such a group — Forever Plaid.

Once upon a time, there were four guys (Sparky, Smudge, Jinx, and Frankie) who loved to sing. They all met in high school, when they joined the audiovisual club (1956). Discovering they shared an affection for music and entertaining, they got together and dreamed of becoming like their idols — The Four Aces, The Four Lads, The Four Freshmen, The Hi-Lo's, and The Crew Cuts. They rehearsed in the basement of Smudge's family's plumbing supply company. It was here they became Forever Plaid — a name that connects the continuation of traditional values of family, home, and harmony. Although rock 'n' roll was racing down the fast lane like a candy apple "vette," they believed in their music. As their sound developed, they sang at family gatherings, fund-raisers, and eventually graduated to supermarket openings and proms. They had little time for romance or leisure for they supported their fantasy by holding down day jobs—Frankie was in dental supplies, Smudge was in bathroom fixtures. Sparky was in better dresses. They devoted themselves to singing at nights and on weekends. Then, finally, they landed their first big gig at the Airport Hilton cocktail bar—The Fusel Lounge.

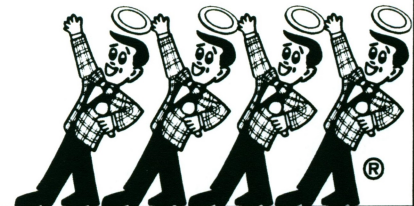
February 9, 1964

En route to pick up their custom-made plaid tuxedos, they were slammed broadside by a school bus filled with eager teenagers. The teens were on their way to witness the Beatles make their U.S. television debut on the *Ed Sullivan Show* and, miraculously, escaped uninjured. The members of Forever Plaid were killed instantly. It is at that moment when their careers and lives ended that the story of FOREVER PLAID begins.

Through the Power of Harmony and the Expanding Holes in the Ozone Layer, in conjunction with the positions of the planets and all the astrotechnical stuff, they are allowed to come back to perform the show they never got to do in life.

And having completed their Mission of Harmony, our men in plaid must return to the cosmos. Although they may be gone, through this production their dreams live on forever.

— Stuart Ross



PROFILES

Ryan McKinzie (Jinx)

Parkland student Ryan has enjoyed performing since the sixth grade. His favorite role in high school was Sandy in *Brigadoon*, but *Music Man* was his most memorable production. You may remember seeing him as "Man with Horn" in *Sunday in the Park with George* in spring 2001. Ryan would like to thank God, his family, Mrs. Wyatt, Mrs. Aldridge, Tim, and Dallas.

Frank J. Paul (Sparky)

Frank is a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in history. He is happy to have the privilege of working on his fourth show at Parkland. Past experiences have included *Sunday in the Park with George* (Franz), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour).

Joe Sawyer* (Smudge)

Joe is currently a Theatre Scholarship Student at Parkland College and this is his first show on the Parkland stage. This summer he played Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Paxton Majestic Theatre. Other credits include Tony in *West Side Story* and Kenickie in *Grease*. He is privileged to be part of this production and would like to thank everyone!

Dallas Street (Frankie/Director)

Dallas is thrilled to be back at Parkland Theatre directing and performing in his third production of *Forever Plaid*. Dallas recently completed a ten-week run as Max Detweiler in *The Sound of Music* at the Starlight Dinner Theatre. Earlier in the year he was seen as George in Parkland's production of *Sunday in the Park with George*. Past Parkland credits include *Company* (Bobby), *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Quartet), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble), *Little Shop of Horrors* (choreographer), and director for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, and *Lucky Stiff*. He would like to thank Tim, Randi, "the guys," and a wonderful staff and crew for making *Forever Plaid* such a wonderful experience. Enjoy the show!

Jeri Corso (Costumer)

Jeri is thrilled to be back at Parkland Theatre once again. She served as the costume designer for Parkland's *Little Shop of Horrors* and appeared on stage in *The Orphan Train*. Jeri enjoys all aspects of theatre and has been involved with many, many shows (too numerous to count)! Jeri is also very active with the Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company. She would like to thank her family for their support and Dallas for including her in such a wonderful show!

Shelley Crane (Lighting Designer)

Shelley joined the staff of the theatre in May as the facility technical director. Previously, she worked at the Krannert Center as the assistant lighting director. Shelley received an MFA in lighting design from the University of Illinois. Lighting designs here at Parkland College include *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Five Golden Rings*. In



addition to maintaining the facility, Shelley is responsible for all of the theatre rentals, teaching stagecraft, and training students in technical theater practices. Thank you for the opportunity to do this kind of work!

David G. Dillman (Scenic Designer/Technical Director)

David is now fully entrenched as the Parkland College Theatre's technical director. David is a graduate of Parkland College and received his BFA from the University of Illinois in the Department of Theatre. He is currently an MFA candidate in technical theatre at U of I, and sincerely hopes to finish in the year 2004. He looks forward to another successful year and welcomes all the new theatre students to our ranks and knows that they will contribute greatly in the success of our shows. Thank you so much, Randi, for all of your wisdom and encouragement, and thank you, Honey, for my life as it is today, and a special thanks to Shelley C. for coming to my rescue this year. Love you all.

Kate Mallinger* (Stage Manager)

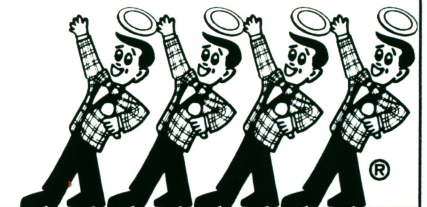
Kate is a theatre scholarship student here at Parkland. She has most recently worked on *A Thurbur Carnival* with the Champaign Urbana Theatre Company and *1940's Radio Hour* at the Station Theatre.

Ed Schaller (Uncle Chester/Bass)

A Parkland graduate, Ed holds a BA in music performance and in history from Northeastern Illinois University. He is currently completing a master's in education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ed has toured and recorded throughout the United States and abroad as the bassist with several bands. He would like to thank his Mom and Dad and Susie for all their great support.

Tim Schirmer (Musical Director/Piano)

Tim Schirmer has worked as a composer/musical director for the past 25 years. As a composer his works have received performances on a regional and national level including the award-winning PBS film documentary *The Greatest Lakes; Portrait of a Prairie Capitol* at the Old State Capitol in Springfield; four musicals: *The Book of Dreams*, *Futures*, *Five Golden Rings*, *Labors of Love*, and more than 20 scores for the Tony-nominated American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Most recently he composed the score for *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Tim has been musical director at Parkland for *Sunday in the Park with George*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Company*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Sweeney Todd*, and others. Dr. Schirmer is the program director for music at Parkland College.



Theatre Staff

Artistic Director
Randi Jennifer Collins Hard

Technical Director
David G. Dillman

Facility Technical Director
Shelley Crane

Ticket Office Manager
Debbi Dillman

Audience Development Manager
Mary Kay Smith

Theatre Advisory Board

Tom Caulfield
David Dillman
Debbi Dillman
Randi Jennifer Collins Hard
George Johnston
David Jones
Gibby Kirby, student representative
Carl Meyer, ex officio
Megg Principe, student representative
Tim Schirmer
Mary Kay Smith

Acknowledgements

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Don Grant Zellmer and the Starlight Dinner Theatre

Michael L. Trautman, DMD
Joseph A. Madura, DDS
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Tickets

All seats for theatre events are available by reservation. Reservations may be made by calling 351-2528 or sending e-mail to theatre@parkland.cc.il.us. At this time, budget limitations prevent us from operating a daily ticket office during regular business hours. However, the ticket office is open two hours before every performance. Discount prices are available to students, school children, senior citizens, and organized groups of fifteen or more. For information on group sales please call Mary Kay at 373-3874.

Rentals

The theatre can be rented for conferences, lectures, musical events, dance concerts, and theatrical productions. Rental of the space can be daily or weekly. In addition, props, costumes, and stock scenery are available for rent. Please call 353-2341 for information.

Volunteers

Parkland College is your community college theatre and we would like to meet you and would welcome your help backstage on our productions. Opportunities exist for building and painting scenery, hanging lights, and being on the show run crew backstage. No experience is necessary. We encourage retirees and senior citizens to come and work alongside our students as mentors. We also encourage high school students interested in the arts to experience the process first hand. Please call 353-2341 or 351-2531 for more information.

Parking

Parking lots C4 and M1 are adjacent to the theatre. Building construction has made our parking less accessible, especially for the Wednesday and Thursday evening performances while college classes are in session. We apologize for this inconvenience.

House Policies

- All tickets are for general admission, non-reserved seating with the exception of groups of 15 or more who, with advance purchase of tickets, may have a block of seats reserved.
- Taking photographs or using recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited. In consideration of our seated patrons and performers, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.
- Please, no eating, drinking or smoking in the theatre. Cough drops are available from the ushers as a courtesy to our patrons.
- Please turn off all cellular telephones before the performance begins.

Contributions

Tax deductible monetary gifts can be made through the Parkland College Foundation in support of the theatre. Your gift can be for general support or you may specify that it be used to support individual awards. The Randall Millas Theatre Scholarship Fund provides tuition, books, and fees for one year to a sophomore theatre major. The Theatre Production Award Fund provides a cash award for a student who excels in technical theatre production. The Susan and Derek Kraybill Musical Theatre Award provides a cash award for a music student with exceptional participation in musical theatre productions. Please call 217/351-2529 for more information.

Comments

Your opinions are very important to us! If you have a compliment, criticism, or suggestion, please call us at 351-2529 or write to Parkland College Theatre, 2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899.



For additional information about performance events, directions, tours, and parking, please call the theatre at 351-2528.

Parkland College ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, veteran/Vietnam veteran era, age or religion, and is a Section 504/ADA compliant. For additional information or accommodations call 217/351-2505.